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## IMPRESSUM

Header	oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov
Content	Sandy P. Harrison, James Shulmeister, Jennifer Marlon, Ines Hessler and as indicated
PALCOMM Logo	Jennifer Marlon, Ines Hessler
Contact	Ines Hessler Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW, Australia ines.hessler@mq.edu.au

## INQUA-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES (IRAs)

INQUA funding for International Focus Groups (IFGs) and projects is designed to kick-start initiatives and international collaborations. Funding is awarded for one or more years during an inter-congress period (projects) or up to two inter-congress periods (IFGs), provided there is sufficient justification of the continued need for financial support. It is expected that IFGs and projects will be sufficiently mature at the end of this time to generate national or international funding for their continued activities. Nevertheless, it may be helpful for these activities to continue to receive non-financial support from

INQUA. For instance, such support will demonstrate that INQUA recognizes the importance of specific areas of research and collaboration. It is therefore anticipated that INQUA recognition will be useful when leaders of activities submit funding proposals to other funding organisations. INQUA recognition will also ensure the active participation of the INQUA Commissions in the dissemination of information about any activities and their outcomes. From 2014, INQUA will therefore recognize a new category for unfunded activities that will be badged as INQUA-Recognized Activities. Permission to use the term "INQUA-Recognized Activity" will carry with it the right to use

the INQUA logo and name when applying for funding and organizing conferences.

From 2014 onwards, you may apply to INQUA for recognition of international activities, particularly those arising from previously-funded INQUA IFGs and projects. Recognition will not be automatic, even for previously-funded IFGs or projects, and will be reviewed annually. If you wish to apply for recognition of an activity in 2014, please see the guidelines on the INQUA website (<http://www.inqua.org>) and talk to your friendly Commission President

## STUDIES ON MILLENNIAL SCALE CLIMATE VARIABILITY ACROSS LATIN-AMERICA



by **Juan Carlos Berrio (University of Leicester, UK)**

In the recent years research initiatives have tended to investigate major ecosystem responses to changes in the climate system. A common feature of several recently investigated sedimentary records has been the level of detail; an

## A PERSPECTIVE OF PALAEOCLIMATE RESEARCH IN RUSSIA

by **Olga Borisova (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia)**

The Research money available in Russia is very scarce. Therefore, the majority of scientists run their projects using small grants (their main source being the Russian Basic Research Foundation), or just do what they can with their modest salaries.

The most important developments we have here at the moment are, in addition to our regular all-Russian Conferences on Quaternary Studies held roughly every three years in the big research centers, the many smaller-scale meetings, ranging from all-Russian events such as the 3rd Conference on the Holocene Paleoenvironments in Kazan held in March 2013), to one-day workshops devoted to either a key area of the science or a key region. The latest examples of such one-day events held in Moscow are the Workshop on the Radiocarbon Research in Geology, Archaeology, and Paleogeography held at the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Workshop on the

unprecedented temporal resolution, combined with an increasingly multi-proxy approaches. Key examples are the studies Colombian Andes at Lake Fuquene and Lake La Cocha. Palaeoecological work at these sites, which has been led by Prof. H. Hooghiemstra (University of Amsterdam), has been conducted at extremely high resolution (1 and 2 cm sampling intervals). This has revealed evidence for abrupt climate changes during the Quaternary Period. The latest challenges for this work are related to developing a clear understanding of the rate of response of tropical ecosystems to such abrupt climate changes, as well as estimating the rates of migration for key plant species along the altitudinal gradients of the tropical Andes. Other important initiatives taking place in Latin America are the opportunity to

Holocene Climate at the Caucasus held at the Institute of Geography RAS, Department of Glaciology. Those one-day workshops provide very convenient grounds for informal discussions, to bring together specialists of various fields, to show gaps on our knowledge and to help mutual understanding and promoting future collaboration without large funds being required.

There are some important new features in the larger meetings, too. For example, the Organizers of the Holocene Conference in Kazan did everything to keep the participation cost as low as possible. In addition to modern and convenient facilities provided for the meeting itself, they accommodated all participants in the most convenient hotel in the downtown with very modest prices. They also provided free coffee breaks and an inexpensive canteen for lunches. The conference volume was distributed among participants for free, both as a book and as a .pdf. Also, they waved the conference fee. The thoughtful planning helped to bring researchers from various smaller towns and institutions to this conference. Another interesting feature from my point of view was that our hosts from Kazan

meet and share exiting research outcomes via PALCOMM-related commission projects such as the LaACER (Latin American ACER) meeting led by Dr. Dunnia Urrego held in Bogota Colombia. Additionally, the recently AGU meeting in Cancun "Perspectives in Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology I" provided another great opportunity to gain new insights into climate variability research at millennial scales across Latin America.



**Trip to Fuquene Lake in Colombia led by Dr. Gustavo Sarmie**

invited a few colleagues (mostly young ones) from several European countries to give talks at the conference. Their presentations were in English, of course, but unlike some ten years ago it did not seem to be a problem for the Russian audience.

## PMIP<sub>3</sub> NEWS

by **Michel Crucifix (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium)**

PMIP is an international initiative endorsed by the World Climate Research Programme, the International Geosphere-Biosphere programme and the Past Global Changes Project. Its objective is to provide a coherent framework to assess climate models and improve our knowledge of climate dynamics on the basis of palaeoclimate evidence.

The second PMIP<sub>3</sub> conference will be held between the 18th and the 23rd May 2014 in the beautiful town of Namur (Belgium).

The Namur conference is the twelfth event of a series initiated in 1995 in Collonges-la-Rouge, France. The meetings in San Damiano, Montreal, Cambridge, Reno, Giens, Estes Park, Kyoto and Crewe have marked the successive developments of the PMIP project: towards more

comprehensive Earth System models, a broader range of past periods, high-standard documented datasets, state-of-the-art approaches of model benchmarking, model-data synthesis and assimilation. Now in its third phase, PMIP has become an important contributor to our understanding of Earth's climate dynamics and sensitivity. This conference will must-be-there event for any scientist interested in past climate modelling, innovative model-data comparison approaches and inferences on Earth's climate sensitivity. It will feature keynotes lectures, lots of time for discussion around posters and sessions focussed on working group activities. Working groups established at the Crewe 2012 PMIP3 conference will also report: Past2Future, Past2K, Benchmarking, Data assimilation, PLIOMIP, Quaternary interglacials, PalaeoVAR, ice sheets, PMIP-COMPARE ocean and paleoisotopes. Namur is located at the junction between the Sambre Valley and the gorgeous valley of the Meuse Dinantaise, which delegates will admire during the Conference Dinner held on the Sax boat. Block rooms booking have been secured, mostly at the venue of the conference (the Hampton's Hotel). For a small extra per night possibility is also given to stay at the Chateau de Namur, where delegates will enjoy the unique surroundings of the medieval Citadelle. You may register today already by connecting on <http://www.climate.be/pmip3>. Not sure yet? The website gives you the possibility to register to a mailing list that will remind you the important deadlines in due time. Over the following months the meeting will be widely advertised with leaflets and posters. You may contribute to the success of this event by ordering advertising material to <mailto:michel.crucifix@uclouvain.be> if you go anywhere where they will be useful.

## REPORT ON PAGES YOUNG SCIENTIST MEETING AND OPEN SCIENCE MEETING,

## GOA, INDIA

by Ines Hessler (Macquarie University, Australia) and Thamban Meloth (National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research, India)

### PAGES 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Scientist Meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGES Young Scientist Meeting (YSM), which was preceding the PAGES Open Science Meeting (OSM), was held in Goa India this February. The YSM brought together early career researchers with a paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental background to develop their professional skills and to provide a platform to establish and expand their scientific network. The acceptance to the meeting was competitive based on the quality of the abstract and meeting the eligibility criteria such as being under 35 years, a PhD student in the later stage of their degree or a Post-Doc within 5 years of completing their degree. After a careful review of roughly 150 applications the Scientific Program Committee invited 82 participants to attend the YSM.

Program elements included apart from the scientific sessions, breakout groups, career development talks, and social events. Although all program sections were very successful I particularly want to point towards the extensive poster sessions, leaving ample time for inspiring discussions and networking. I also don't want to forget the career developing talks about reviewing, data sharing and communicating science, which became little events themselves due to enthusiastic speakers such as Alicia Newton (Nature Geoscience), David Anderson (NOAA), and Gavin Schmidt (NASA).

Subsequent to the YSM the participant have given the opportunity to publish their presented work in a special issue of "Climate of the Past", with an Editorial team that consists of six YSM participants, Thorsten Kiefer, Alberto Reyes and Steven Phipps who is taking the lead. So there is something for you to look out for.

For more information check <http://www.pages-osm.org/ysm> and the latest EOS (Vol.94, No.26) where three YSM participants give a report on the

meeting.



YSM participants

### PAGES 4th Open Science Meeting on "The Past: A Compass for Future Earth"

With a system as complex as Earth's climate, it is a daunting task for scientists to be able to improve projections of future climate and environment, and inform strategies for sustainability. Past Global Changes (PAGES), a core project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), contributes to the improvement in our understanding of past changes in the Earth System that provide crucial directions and perspectives on global change aspects.

The 4th Open Science Meeting (OSM) and associated 2nd Young Scientists Meeting (YSM) of PAGES were held in the scenic coastal state of Goa (India) during 11-16 February 2013. The meeting hosted by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research were a huge success in terms of the participation (nearly 450 delegates), international representation (44 countries), scientific discussions, networking as well as new ideas for future research. Some of the key sessions included: (i). Monsoons in space and time: patterns, mechanisms and impacts; (ii). Regional climate variability over the last 2000 years; (iii). Sensitivity of the cryosphere - past and future; (iv). Climate change - physical forcings and biogeochemical feedbacks; (v). The role of ocean circulation in climate dynamics; (vi). Sea level change and coastal zone processes - threats for human societies; (vii). Abrupt changes and extreme events - assessment and risks; (viii). Past changes in fluvial systems, floodplains and estuaries;

(ix). Climate impact on human evolution and civilizations; and (x). Natural and human effects on ecosystem dynamics.

The event was also enriched by several social engagements like public lecture, soccer cup, get-togethers and field trips. An interesting public lecture entitled "Climate change and implications for Global Society" was delivered by R. K. Pachauri, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), followed by panel discussions and public interactions. One of the highlights of the OSM was the interactive discussions on the Future Earth initiative and possible role of palaeoscience in similar programmes on the anvil. More interesting details on the meeting are available at the OSM website <http://www.pages-osm.org/>, including the plenary lecture presentations and photos.



OSM Poster session under palm trees

## CONFERENCE ADVERTISEMENT

### 4<sup>th</sup> EASTERN AFRICAN QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (EAQUA) CONFERENCE:

**Equatorial Eastern Africa  
Quaternary, Climate Change and  
Variability**

**23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013, Nanyuki town,  
Kenya**

#### CONTACT:

Christine Adhiambo Ogola  
(<mailto:caogola@museums.or.ke>),  
National Museums of Kenya, Earth  
Sciences Department, Nairobi, Kenya

#### CO-SPONSORS:

- National Museums of Kenya

- Past Global Changes (PAGES)

- Institut de recherche pour le  
développement (IRD)

- Cooperation and Cultural Affairs

Department, Embassy of France in Nairobi  
(Kenya)

#### SUMMARY:

The 4th EAQUA Conference themed the 'Equatorial eastern African Quaternary, Climate Change and variability will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in Nanyuki town, Kenya. The conference will bring together local and international researchers working on various aspects of the Quaternary period of eastern Africa to share and exchange research results and ideas among themselves and with the international Quaternary research community. The themes for the conference include: late Pleistocene-Holocene climate variability and human-environment interactions/adaptations, Habitat and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of pre-historic sites, the Quaternary fossil and archaeological record of eastern Africa, Climate and Global change – impacts, adaptation and vulnerability assessment, Eastern African Quaternary geology, Highland biodiversity and ecosystems and Heritage resource governance for sustainable development. This conference will also provide an opportunity to integrate research results to help identify gaps for future research, build networks for collaborative research among Quaternary period researchers working in the region and to make recommendations for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and variable climate and rainfall.

**LaACER II Workshop. Latin  
American Abrupt Climate Changes  
and Environmental Responses**

**4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013, Natal, Brazil**

#### CONTACT:

Dunia H. Urrego  
(<mailto:d.urrego@epoc.u-bordeaux1.fr>),  
Université Bordeaux I, Talence, France

#### CO-SPONSORS:

Past Global Changes (PAGES)

#### SUMMARY:

The main goals of the workshop are capacity building, strengthening synergies between ocean, terrestrial and modeling communities, and promoting scientific deliberation on millennial-scale climate variability during the last glacial in tropical and subtropical America.

## FURTHER UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SUMMERSCHOOLS

#### July:

**10.07.-30.07.13**, Urbino, Italy  
10<sup>th</sup> Urbino Summer School in  
Paleoclimatology  
<http://www.urbinosp.it>

#### July/August:

**28.07.-02.08.13**, Heidelberg, Germany  
Speleothem Summer School  
<http://www.speleothem2013.uni-hd.de/>

#### September:

**01.09.-06.09.13**, Sigde, Spain  
11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Paleoceanography (ICPI 1)  
<http://www.icp2013.cat>

#### OUTLOOK

#### December:

**02.12.-06.12.13**, Wollongong, Australia  
Inaugural INQUA Early Career Researcher  
Inter-Congress Meeting  
<https://www.facebook.com/INQUAECR>

**04.12.-06.12.13**, Corvallis, USA  
PMIP Ocean Workshop 2013  
Understanding Changes since the Last  
Glacial Maximum  
[http://people.oregonstate.edu/~schmita2/Projects/PMIP\\_LGM\\_CI3/PMIP\\_ocean\\_WS.html](http://people.oregonstate.edu/~schmita2/Projects/PMIP_LGM_CI3/PMIP_ocean_WS.html)

more workshop and conference  
announcements can be found  
on <http://www.pages-igbp.org/calendar>

*If you want to contribute to the next  
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perspectives, workshop  
announcements, fact sheets... send your  
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